efficacy of Schemes according to Plan priorities and targets and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly. The ZBB exercise carried out for the Eleventh Plan for rationalizing 155 Schemes in operation in 2006-07 resulted in retention of 82 CSS for implementation during 2007-08 after weeding, merger and reclassification.

IT enabled office administration

*80. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGH1:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's guidelines to earmark certain percentage of planned allocations to the Ministries to enhance usage of IT in the administration;

(b) whether such guidelines would also include training the personnel into IT-enabled office administration;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and whether Government would consider including the training in IT into the existing guidelines;

(d) whether it is a fact that certain Ministries/Departments have been using such funds for the procurement of office hardware other than computer and related hardware; and

(e) if so, the mechanism to monitor the proper usage of such earmarked funds?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission, based on the recommendations of the High Powered Committee for impoving administrative efficiency by using IT, has requested all Central Line Ministries/Departments to make provision of 2-3 percent of their plan/Budget for Programmes/Schemes relating to IT applications. It had also been conveyed to the Departments/Ministries that they could incur expenditure of an amount exceeding 2-3 percent of their budget (Plan or non-plan) for initiatives relating to IT including training, acquisition of hardware, software as well as development and maintenance of software. It was also clarified by the Planning Commission that this does not entail any additionalities by way of budgetary allocations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) While Departments have been requested to incur this expenditure on IT, the usage of this money for IT is to be monitored by the Departments themselves, since this expenditure was to be made out of their existing budgetary allocations. However, no instances of usage of such funds for purposes other than IT have come to notice.

(e) Since the earmarking of 2-3 percent funds has to be made from within the existing budgetary allocations of all Departments/Ministries, the monitoring of such utilization is expected be done by the Departments/Ministries concerned.